

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 8, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-19 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication Number WO 02/073933 to Hovell (hereinafter Hovell) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,085,270 to Inouchi (hereinafter Inouchi). According to the Office Action, Hovell teaches all of the elements of claims 1-19 except for teaching that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network. Therefore, the Office Action combined the teachings of Hovell and Inouchi in an effort to yield all of the elements of claims 1-19. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in claims 1-19.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-7 depend, recites a network name resolving element for performing name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol. The network element includes a name resolving unit configured to perform name resolving and a first connection unit configured to provide a direct connection to the first network. The network element also includes a second connection unit configured to provide a

direct connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network. The network element further includes an address translation unit configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network. The name resolving unit and the address translation unit are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

Claim 8, upon which claim 9 depends, recites a system including a network name resolving element and at least two network address translating elements. The network name resolving element is for performing name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol. The network element includes a name resolving unit configured to perform name resolving and a first connection unit configured to provide a direct connection to the first network. The network element also includes a second connection unit configured to provide a direct connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network. The network element further includes an address translation unit configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network. The name resolving unit and the address translation unit are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

The network address translating elements are configured to send load information to the network element.

Claim 10, upon which claims 11-18 depend, recites a method for resolving names in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol. The method includes processing a name resolve request to obtain an address and performing address translation between the first and the second network. The name resolve request processing and the address translation are performed in a dedicated network name resolving element for performing name resolving located in the first network and having direct connections to the first network and to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network.

Claim 19 recites a network name resolving element for performing name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol. The network name resolving element includes means for performing name resolving, means for providing a direct connection to the first network and means for providing a direct connection to the second network, such that when the means for performing name resolving in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the means for performing name resolving in the first network to the second network.

The network name resolving element includes means for performing address translation between the first network and the second network. The means for performing name resolving and the means for performing address translation are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

As outlined below, Applicant submits that the cited references of Hovell and Inouchi do not teach or suggest the all of the elements of the pending claims.

Hovell discloses a network address translation (NAT) apparatus, which is enhanced with respect to the requirements between IPv4 and IPv6 networks. The apparatus assigns an alias to a target network device in the first network, wherein the alias is compatible with the protocol of the second network. The apparatus translates the assigned alias to an address for the target network device, wherein the translated address is compatible with the communication protocol of the first network. See at least page 2, lines 7 to 24 and the Abstract of Hovell.

Inouchi discloses a method where the format of IP packet is mutually translated between IPv4 and IPv6. A unit for performing this translation will hereinafter be called a "translator". In the translator, correspondence relation between IPv4 address and IPv6 address must be prepared and held in advance of translation. When the correspondence relation is prepared dynamically each time that communication occurs, name resolution of a Domain Name System (DNS) is used as a trigger for the preparation. The DNS is a system for translating a name (character string) comprehensible to human, such as a URL, to an IP address. When an IPv6 terminal performs name resolution for a certain

name, and an IP address responsive thereto is based on IPv4, this IPv4 address is rewritten to an IPv6 address which in turn is returned to the IPv6 terminal. The correspondence between the IPv4 address before it is rewritten to IPv6 and the rewritten IPv6 address is made. In other words, a DNS-ALG intercepts a response message for name resolution to rewrite it, and prepares translation information on the basis of information before and after translating the IP address. The translation information dynamically prepared in this phase is temporary, and is discarded when the communication ends. See Col. 2, lines 36-62, and Figures 1 and 14-15.

Applicant submits that the combination of Hovell and Inouchi does not teach or suggest each of the elements recited in the pending claims. Each of the independent pending claims, in part, recites a second connection unit configured to provide a direct connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a server in the second network, the request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network. As noted in the Office Action, Hovell does not teach or suggest these features.

Inouchi does not cure any of the deficiencies of Hovell, as noted above. Specifically, Inouchi does not teach or suggest that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a request to a DNS server in the second network, the request is sent **directly** from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network. Page 8, lines 11-14 and page 11, lines 12-14 of the present specification discloses that in contrast to the prior art, the name resolve request forwarded to an enhanced DNS server

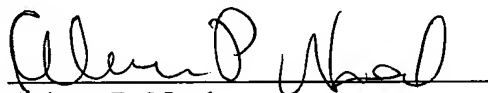
does not have to be transmitted via a NAP-PT server. Col. 5, lines 55-65 of Inouchi, on the other hand, teaches a conventional operation where the VPN 5 and IP network 6 are interconnected through a translator which translates between IPv6 address and IPv4 address. The translator of Inouchi also has means for communicating with DNS-ALG 2 which manages translation information necessary for address translation and includes means for rewriting a query made by the DNS. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Hovell nor Inouchi, whether taken singly or combined teaches or suggests each feature of claims 1, 8, 10 and 19 and hence, dependent claims 2-7, 9 and 11-18 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 1-19 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-19 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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